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Book review: Spirit of rebellion. Labor and religion in the new cotton south

Citation for published version:

Newman, M 2012, 'Book review: Spirit of rebellion. Labor and religion in the new cotton south', *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, vol. 63, no. 1, pp. 198-199. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022046911000649>

Digital Object Identifier (DOI):

[10.1017/S0022046911000649](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022046911000649)

Link:

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Published In:

The Journal of Ecclesiastical History

Publisher Rights Statement:

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nothing more than innumerable, fractured sects? Do archival sources confirm the presence of broad, unifying networks built on common practices or shared beliefs? Finally, will the emerging critical spirit among Pentecostal academics, the openness to new and imaginative theological paradigms, and the gradual assessment of Pentecostal spirituality from outsiders indicate an ever-widening gap between Pentecostal laity and professionals? One thing is certain: Pentecostals seem destined to multiply.

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Spirit of rebellion. Labor and religion in the new cotton south. By Jarold Roll. (The Working Class in American History.) Pp. xiii+272 incl. 4 maps and 6 figs. Urbana–Chicago–Springfield: University of Illinois Press, 2010. \$80 (cloth), \$30 (paper). 978 0 252 03519 7, 978 0 252 07703 6
JEH (63) 2012; doi:10.1017/S0022046911000649

Judged by its misleading title, the reader might expect this book to address the cotton-growing regions of the South from Reconstruction through much of the twentieth century. Instead, Jarod Roll's well-researched study focuses on cotton development in the Boothill, a seven-county area of southeast Missouri, between 1910 and the mid-1940s. Aspiring to become self-sufficient, independent producers, African American and white tenant farmers and sharecroppers, Roll argues, migrated to the region's newly drained swamps and cleared forests where for thirty years they struggled to resist forms of capitalist development that threatened to confine them permanently to wage labour. While racism often divided and segregated black and white producers, they found ideological support for their 'agrarian producerism' (p. 57) in Pentecostalism, and for some whites also in socialism, both of which addressed feelings of powerlessness and shared a producerist emphasis on hard work, thrift and economic autonomy. The Universal Negro Improvement Association's appeal to 'mainly prosperous' (p. 54) African Americans in the Boothill during the 1920s similarly lay in producerism. Despite President Franklin D. Roosevelt's personal sympathy for uprooted tenants and sharecroppers, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration's subsidy payments to landowners encouraged them to evict their resident workforce in favour of mechanisation and day labour. Conflicts between the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union (STFU) and a Congress of Industrial Organizations' (CIO) affiliate prevented a unified response by displaced agrarians who turned to these organisations for assistance. Nevertheless, STFU and CIO lobbying and a widely publicised roadside protest by black and white evictees in January 1939 led the federal Farm Security Administration (FSA) to create several segregated communities for landless farmers in the Boothill, and their inhabitants were able to buy their homes after conservatives forced the FSA to sell the sites. FSA programmes did not stop 'eviction, demotion, and the shift to a wage labor system' (p. 171) but tried instead to help landless farmers to adjust to its coming. Roll argues that by considering twentieth-century rural southerners primarily in terms of their urban

migration historians have missed the vibrancy of determined, if ultimately unsuccessful, rural efforts to sustain producerism. Furthermore, he claims that his 'story reveals a forgotten lineage of agrarian rebellion that linked Populism to the rise of civil rights unionism in the 1940s' (p. 8) because many migrants brought to the urban labour unions that they joined 'a spirit of radical religiosity, experience in community organizing, and belief in the responsibilities and power of the state' (p. 179). However, his claim about linkages to civil rights unionism is supposition in need of evidence. Despite Roll's claim to have unearthed a lost tradition of southern rural resistance, his evidence does not extend beyond seven border state counties, and the STFU's efforts more widely are, in any case, well known to historians. Within the Boothill, Roll's evidence suggests that socialists and the UNIA achieved only minority support among those whom they sought to enlist, and the importance of religion in rural resistance during the 1930s is asserted rather than convincingly supported.

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Il giornale dell'anima. Soliloqui, note e diari spirituali. Edited by Alberto Melloni. (Edizione nazionale dei diari di Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli – Giovanni xxiii, 1.) Pp. xlviii+546. Bologna: Istituto per le scienze religiose, 1987. €50. 88 901107 0 8

Nelle mani di Dio a servizio dell'uomo. I diari di don Roncalli, 1905–1925. Edited by Lucia Butturini. (Edizione nazionale dei diari di Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli – Giovanni xxiii, 2.) Pp. xlvii+598. Bologna: Istituto per le scienze religiose, 2008. €50. 978 88 901107 5 7

Tener da conto. Agendine di Bulgaria, 1925–1934. Edited by Massimo Faggioli. (Edizione nazionale dei diari di Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli – Giovanni xxiii, 3.) Pp. 1+285. Bologna: Istituto per le scienze religiose, 2008. €50. 978 88 901107 5 7

La mia vita in oriente. Agende del delegato apostolico, I: 1935–1939; II: 1940–1944. Edited by Valeria Martano. (Edizione nazionale dei diari di Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli – Giovanni xxiii, 4.1, 4.2.) Pp. xxxiii+823, xxi+865. Bologna: Istituto per le scienze religiose, 2006, 2008. €50 each. 88 901107 7 5; 978 88 96118 01 6

Anni di Francia, I: Agende del nunzio, 1945–1948; II: Agende del nunzio, 1949–1953. Edited by Étienne Fouilloux. (Edizione nazionale dei diari di Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli – Giovanni xxiii, 5.1; 5.2.) Pp. xxviii+595, xxii+725. Bologna: Istituto per le scienze religiose, 2004. €50 each. 88 901107 1 6; 88 901107 9 1

Pace e vangelo. Agende del patriarca, I: 1953–1955; II: 1956–1958. Edited by Enrico Galavotti. (Edizione nazionale dei diari di Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli – Giovanni xxiii, 6.1; 6.2.) Pp. xxxiii+697, xxxvi+81. Bologna: Istituto per le scienze religiose, 2008. €50 each. 978 88 901107 4 0; 978 88 901107 6 4

Pater amabilis. Agende del pontefice, 1958–1963. Edited by Mauro Velati. (Edizione nazionale dei diari di Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli – Giovanni xxiii, 7.)